# PYSC 290 Chp 1 - Key People and Key terms associated with Chapter 1

General Psychology (Athabasca University)

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Key people and Key Terms

## Chapter 1: The Evolution of Psychology

### Key people:

1. **Wilhelm Wundt** - founded experimental psychology and the first experimental psychology laboratory
2. **William James** - Chief architect of functionalism, described as “stream of consciousness” ; wrote book “Principles of psychology” (1890)
3. **John B Watson** - founded behviourism, the view that psychologists should study only observable behaviour and events; nature vs nurture argument; greatness is not born but made
4. **Sigmund Freud** - Devised the theory and technique known as psychoanalysis.
5. **B.F. Skinner** - Modern behaviourist who said that behaviour is determined in large part by the positive and negative outcomes; book- “Beyond Freedom and Dignity” (1971)
6. **Mary Whiton Calkins** - Founded one of the first American psychology laboratories (at Wellesley in 1891); the first woman to serve as the president of the APA. Studied with William James
7. **Carl Rogers**- A major proponent of “humanistic” psychology; pioneered person-centred therapy; “self-concept”
8. **Abraham Maslow**- Another prominent architect of the humanist movement in psychology.
9. **Mary Floy Washburn** - the second woman president of the APA, she wrote “The Animal Mind”, a book that served as an impetus for the behavioural movement.
10. **Leta Stetter Hollingworth** - Did pioneering work on adolescent development, intelligence and gender differences; first to use the word “gifted” to describe high scores on intelligence tests.

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11. **Debra Pepler and Wendy Craig**- established PREVNet, a network for researchers and organizations focused on ending bullying in Canada.

12. **Robert Whyte, Franz Gall, Paul Broca and Johannes Muller**- showed that important insights could be gained into the workings of the body and brain through the application of systematic, empirical methods.

13. **Hermann von Helmholtz** - first experimental examinations in psychology of human reaction time

14. **James Mark Baldwin-** first experimental laboratory in the British Empire (UofT) in 1891.

15. **Brenda Milner** - known for her pioneering work with patient known as H.M; made crucial contributions to our understanding of memory; founder of neuropsychology in Canada.

16. **Mary Salter Ainsworth**- developmental psychology; contributions to attachment theory.

17. **Mary Wright** - developmental psychologist; made contributions to educational psychology and developmental training; **first female president of Canadian Psychological Association.**

18. **Doreen Kimura** - contributions in studying the brain, including neuromotor mechanisms in human communication and sex differences in cognition.

19. **James Olds**- demonstrated that electrical stimulation of the brain could evoke emotional responses such as pleasure and rage in animals.

20. **Roger Sperry** - showed that the right and left halves of the brain are specialized to handle different types of mental tasks.

21. **David Hubel and Torsten Weisel** - work on how visual signals are processed in the brain.

22. **Wilder Penfield**- showed that it was possible to map out the parts of the brain associated with speech, memory and sensory and motor activities.

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23. **Donald Hebb**- neuropsychological perspective; pivotal concept introduced by him- “cell assembly” (repeated stimulation leads to development of cell assemblies)
24. **Martin Seligman** - positive psychology movement.
25. **Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, Christopher Peterson and Barbara Fredrickson** - other major architects of the positive psychology movement.
26. **Sir Francis Galton**- pioneer in mental testing; maintained that personality and ability are dependent entirely on genetic inheritance.
27. **Socrates, Aristotle, Plato** - considered and debated issues of relevance to psychology including topics like separation of body and mind, and whether knowledge was inborn or gained through experience.
28. **Jean Piaget, Noam Chomsky and Herbert Simon** - made contribution to cognitive psychology;
29. **David Buss, Martin Daly, Margo Wilson, Leda Cosmides, John Tooby**- evolutionary theorists; behaviour patterns have evolved to solve adaptive problems; natural selection.
30. Edward Titchener- Strucutralism emerged through his leadership.
31.

**Key Terms:**

1. **Theory** - A system of ideas used to link together or explain a set of observations.
2. **Applied psychology** - the branch of psychology concerned with practical problems.
3. **Structuralism** - school of though based on the notion that the task of psychology is to analyze consciousness into its basic elements.
4. **Introspection**- Observation of one’s own conscious experience.

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5. **Functionalism** - School of thought asserting that psychology's major purpose was to investigate the function or purpose of consciousness.
6. **Behaviourism** - The theoretical orientation asserting that scientific psychology should study only observable behaviour.
7. **Behaviour** - an observable activity or overt response by an organism.
8. **Evolutionary psychology** - examines behavioural processes in terms of their adaptive or survival value for a species.
9. **Critical thinking** - the use of cognitive skills and strategies to increase the probability of a desired outcome
10. **Natural selection** - The Darwinian principle that characteristics that have a survival advantage for species are more likely to be passed on to subsequent generations.
11. **Psychoanalytic theory** - Freudian theory that explains personality and abnormal behaviour in terms of unconscious processes; attempts to explain personality, motivation and mental disorders by focusing on unconscious determinants of behaviour.
12. **Unconscious**- According to psychoanalytic theory, that portion of the mind containing thoughts, memories, and wishes not in awareness but nonetheless exerting a strong influence on human behaviour.
13. **Humanism** - Theoretical orientation that emphasizes the unique qualities of humans, especially their freedom and their potential for personal growth; take optimistic view of human nature
14. **Empiricism** - the point of view that knowledge should be based on observation; knowledge gained through experience.
15. **Culture** - widely shared customs, beliefs, values, norms and institutions that are transmitted socially across generations.
16. **Clinical psychology** - The branch of psychology concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of psychological disorders.
17. **Cognition**- mental processes or thinking used to acquire knowledge.
18. **Psychology** - the science that studies behaviour and the physiological and cognitive processes that underlie it, and it is the

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profession that applies this knowledge to solving various practical problems; study of the mind.

19. **Positive psychology** - A reaction against a negative emphasis in psychology; a new focus on positive, adaptive, creative, and fulfilling aspects of human existence.

20. **Testwiseness** - ability to use characteristics and formats of a test to maximize one's score.

21. **Psychiatry** - branch of medicine concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of psychological problems and disorders; severe problems such as mood disorders, major depression and schizophrenia

22. **Nativism**- Knowledge is inborn

23. **1879- psychology's date of birth.**

24. **Consciousness**- awareness of immediate experience.

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